



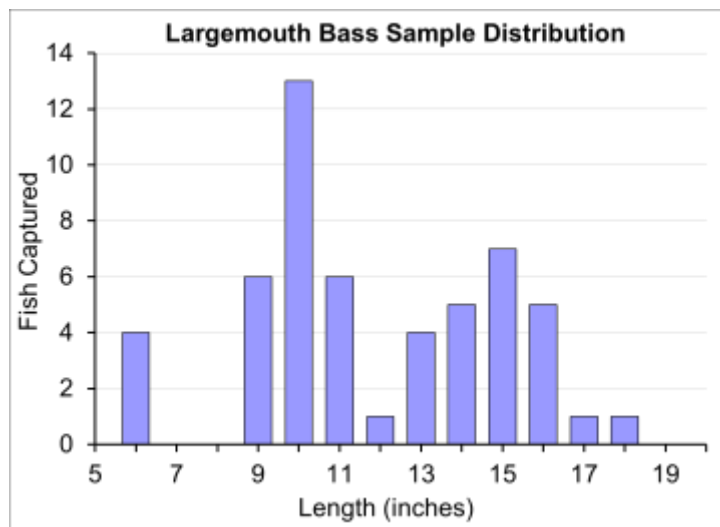
## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fishery Information Sheet

**LAKE:** Stone Lake

**COUNTY:** Price

**YEAR:** 2018

Stone Lake is a 79-acre drainage lake with soft water, maximum depth 16 feet, average depth 8 feet, and 20% of its surface area less than 3 feet deep. Pea-green colored water indicates high nutrient levels that cause severe mid-summer algae blooms. Decomposing plants can deplete oxygen, causing fish to die in late winter with substantial loss most recently reported in 2013. In late spring 2018 when water temperature was 70°F, WDNR assessed bass and panfish populations by electrofishing.

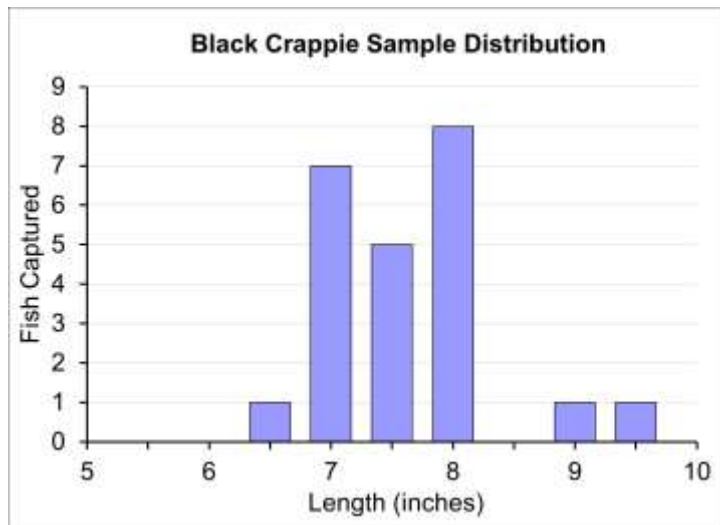
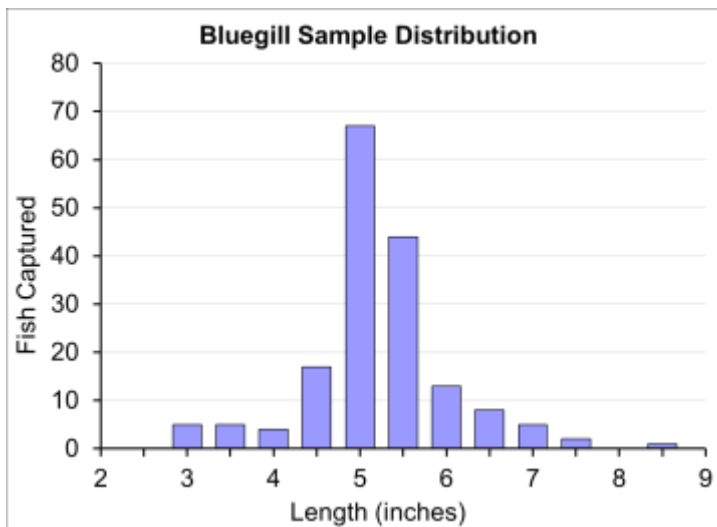


### Largemouth Bass

We captured 53 largemouth bass ranging 6.4 – 18.2" and averaging 12.3" long. Our capture rates of 25 bass  $\geq$  8" per mile and 48 per hour indicated that population abundance was moderately high—an indirect sign of slower-than-average growth rate. About 39% of the bass  $\geq$  8" were legal size at least 14" long, and 29% were 15" or longer.

### Bluegill

Electrofishing yielded a sample of 171 bluegills, ranging 3.3 – 8.5" and averaging 5.5" long. Our capture rate of 290 bluegills per mile (684 per hour) indicated very high abundance that stifles production of many large fish. Their population size structure will likely disappoint most panfish anglers. Only 5% of bluegills in our sample were at least 7" and 0.6% were 8" or longer. Bluegill abundance was higher, and their size distribution was similar to our measures in late spring 2009.



### Black Crappie

We are uncertain how well our survey represents the crappie population's abundance and size structure, mainly because crappies of various sizes occupy the shallow, nearshore zone in different seasons. In 0.59 miles we captured 23 black crappies at rates of 39 fish per mile and 92 per hour. They ranged 6.9 – 9.5" and averaged 7.8" long. Only two fish were 8.5" or longer, and none attained 10". Our electrofishing capture rate (141 fish/mile) was higher in late spring 2009, but the population had few large fish then too.

For questions or additional information contact:

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